

year. This species is cultivated only along the maritime zone in eastern Sicily. It is much smaller than the ordinary prickly pears of Sicily, and is marked by its numerous rigid spines. It is called *Opuntia dillenii* in Sicily." (Swingle.) Distributed.

**3442. NOPALEA COCCINELLIFERA.**

**Cactus.**

From Palermo, Sicily. Donated by Professor Borzi, director of the Botanic Garden of Palermo, through Mr. W. T. Swingle, May, 1899.

"A nearly spineless forage cactus. The cochineal insect is said to be cultivated on this plant. It is probably a native of southern Mexico, but is now widely cultivated in tropical countries. It is often referred to the genus *Opuntia*." (Swingle.) Distributed.

**3443. OPUNTIA SALMIANA.**

From Palermo, Sicily. Donated by Professor Borzi, director of the Palermo Botanic Garden, through Mr. W. T. Swingle, May, 1899.

A slender Brazilian species. Branches develop from the ripe fruits. Distributed.

**3444. OPHIOPOGON JAPONICUS.**

From Palermo, Sicily. Donated by Professor Borzi, director of the Botanic Garden of Palermo, through Mr. W. T. Swingle, May, 1899.

"This plant makes a very pretty lawn in the Botanic Garden of Palermo, where the climate is similar to that of southern California. It belongs to the lily family, and should be tested in making lawns, both in Florida and in the Southwest." (Swingle.) Distributed.

**3445. CHIRANTHODENDRON PLATANOIDES.**

**Devil's hand.**

From Sicily. Received through Mr. W. T. Swingle, May, 1899.

"*Mano di diavolo*." This majestic tree from Mexico has large, red flowers, containing within five bright red stamens in the form of a hand, from which peculiarity it derives its name. It belongs to the family *Sterculiaceae*. Distributed.

**3446. BOSEA YERVAMORA.**

From Palermo, Sicily. Donated by Professor Borzi, director of the Palermo Botanic Garden, through Mr. W. T. Swingle, May, 1899.

A very large woody vine, native of the Canary Islands; very useful for shade. Orchids are grown among its branches at the Botanic Garden at Palermo. Distributed.

**3447. FICUS LEUCANTHATOMA.**

**Fig.**

From Palermo, Sicily. Donated by Professor Borzi, director of the Palermo Botanic Garden, through Mr. W. T. Swingle, May, 1899.

A Malayan ornamental fig. Distributed.

**3448. FICUS MAGNOLIOIDES.**

**Rubber tree.**

From Sicily. Donated by Professor Borzi, director of the Palermo Botanic Garden, through Mr. W. T. Swingle, April, 1899.

"This new species of *Ficus* was received nearly half a century ago at the Palermo Botanic Garden, from southern France, under the name of *Ficus verrucosa*. Professor Borzi finds it, however, to be quite different from this species and to constitute a new species of the section *Urostigma*. It is closely related to the rubber tree (*Ficus elastica*), from which it differs principally in having leaves which become rust colored below, causing them to resemble the leaves of *Magnolia grandiflora*. The leaves have longer stalks and the fruits are also different. The tree attains a great size, the oldest specimen in the Palermo Garden covering a space of over 9,000 square feet; that is, a circle nearly 100 feet in diameter. It produces an abundance of aerial roots, which grow directly downwards from the older branches. If these reach the soil they take root and grow rapidly in diameter. This occurs frequently near the trunk, and in consequence the trunk is nearly hidden by the confused mass of these roots. It grows very